

REMARKS

Claims 45-54 are pending. Claims 45, 48, 52, and 54 have been amended in this response. Support for these amendments can be found, *inter alia*, at page 7, lines 24-30, and in Figures 4-8 of the original application. No claims have been canceled or added. Claims 45-54 therefore will be pending upon entry of the above amendments.

Claims 45-54 have been objected to based on the following language added to each independent claim in the response of April 25, 2005: “wherein the flexible contact element is not attached to the contact section when the female electrical terminal is mated with a complementary male terminal.” The drawings have also been rejected in response to the addition of this claim language. This noted claim language has been deleted from claims 45, 48, 52, and 54 in this response, thereby rendering the objections to the claims and drawings moot.

Claims 45-54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the FCI Jumbo PV Receptacle (“the PV receptacle”).

Claims 45, 48, and 52 have been amended herein to recite wherein the flexible contact element does not extend into the first tubular portion. Claim 54 has been amended to recite wherein the flexible contact element does not extend into the set of converging sidewalls. The depiction of the PV receptacle reproduced on page 6 of the office action, by contrast, shows the element (40) extending through a portion of the PV receptacle identified by the Examiner as a first tubular portion. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claims 45, 48, 52, and 54 of present application, as amended herein, are patentably distinct from the PV receptacle. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 45, 48, 52, and 54 (and claims 46, 47, 49-51, and 53, which depend from claims 45, 48, or 52) is respectfully requested.

A notice of allowability is respectfully requested.

DOCKET NO.: FCI-2632/C3069
Application No.: 09/989,271
Office Action Dated: July 28, 2005

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

Date: October 28, 2005



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